

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Please amend the typographical error in Claim 1, as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) A form processing device for reading a field data file=~~storing~~ which stores values to be overlaid onto each of a plurality of fields in a form, and for overlaying the values stored in the read field data file onto each of the plurality of fields in the form, the form processing device comprising:

first determination means for determining, based on field definition information which defines each of the plurality of fields in the form that at least one of the plurality of fields is defined as a field onto which an external file is to be overlaid.;

second determination means for determining, that at least one value stored in the field data file is URL data; and

overlaying means for downloading the external file from a network server based on the URL data and overlaying the downloaded external file onto the field at least one of the plurality of fields.

2. (Previously Presented): A form processing method for reading a field data file which stores values to be overlaid onto each of a plurality of fields in a form, and overlaying the values stored in the read field data file onto each of the plurality of fields in the form, the form processing method comprising:

a first determination step of determining, based on field definition information which defines each of the plurality of fields in the form, that at least one of the plurality of fields

is defined as a field onto which an external file is to be overlaid;

a second determination step of determining, that at least one value stored in the field data file is URL data; and

an overlaying step of downloading the external file from a network server based on the URL data and overlaying the downloaded external file onto the at least one of the plurality of fields.

3. (Previously Presented): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute a form processing method of reading a field data file which stores values to be overlaid onto each of a plurality of fields in a form, and overlaying the values stored in the read field data file onto each of the plurality of fields in the form, wherein the method comprises:

a first determination step of determining, based on field definition information which defines each of the plurality of fields in the form, that at least one of the plurality of fields as a field onto which an external file is to be overlaid;

a second determination step of determining, that at least one value stored in the field data file is URL data; and

an overlaying step of downloading the external file from a network server based on the URL data and overlaying the downloaded external file onto the at least one of the plurality of fields.

4. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 3, wherein the method further comprises:

a storing step of storing the downloaded external file, into a local drive.

5. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 4, further comprising:

a third determination step of determining whether the time stamp of the downloaded external file stored on the local drive is older than the time stamp of the external file stored on the network server, wherein;

if the third determination is positive, then the external file stored on the network server is downloaded and the downloaded external file stored on the local drive is updated, and

if the third determination is negative, then the downloaded external file stored on the local drive is retained.

6. - 7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 3, further comprising:

a third determination step of determining whether the downloaded external file is smaller than a predetermined file capacity, wherein:

if the third determination is positive, then the downloaded external file is stored

on a local drive; and

if the third determination is negative, then the downloaded external file is not stored on the local drive.

9. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 4, wherein said storing step includes deleting an external file stored in the local drive if a file capacity of the downloaded external file is larger than a free space of the local drive.

10. (Cancelled)